

16th July 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

In my final letter to you this academic year, I want to start by congratulating Year 12 on an absolutely fantastic first year in the sixth form. As a year group, Year 12 have shown themselves to be the role models we expect for our younger students, with impressive resilience, work ethic and attendance throughout the year. Given the level of disruption this year, this is nothing short of outstanding and I would like to thank our students for their mature approach.

This letter will cover grades achieved in the recent Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs), UCAS predicted grades, as well as changes to staffing and the reporting of absence in the sixth form from September.

Grades

Tomorrow, within the documents section of Edulink, you should be able to find PPE grades for all Year 12 students. These are the collated grades from each subject, based on all papers sat during the examination period in June, and reflect course content to date.

Some students have been asking about whether their UCAS predicted grades - the grades that will be sent to universities on their application form - are the same as the PPE grades. They are not. UCAS predicted grades are decided by teachers, using their professional judgement and knowledge of the student over the course to date, and making a grade prediction that is aspirational but realistic. We encourage our students to apply to a range of universities: one aspirational choice, three in line with their predicted grades and one back-up/insurance choice (with a slightly lower entry requirement). More details will follow about this next term, when the applications are completed fully.

UCAS Applications and Early Entries

UCAS supports all applications to universities in the UK. In tutor time, Year 12 have been learning about the application process and starting to complete the personal details section of the application form. In September, further work will be done to enable our students to write their personal statements to support their applications. We have recently invested in [Unifrog](#) - a careers platform that has excellent search capabilities regarding all post-18 destinations. All students have received log-in details and have begun to use the platform. This, along with the [UCAS website](#), is a great place to look in terms of researching options over the summer holidays.

Students applying to Oxford or Cambridge universities, or for other early entry courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine/Science, must submit UCAS applications by 15th October 2021. We have specialist support in place for these applicants and meetings have already taken place (or are planned by the end of term) regarding next steps for these applications.



Staffing changes

We are sad to be losing some members of our sixth form support staff team this summer. Val McLean (Student Services), Claire Wootton (Post-16 Learning Mentor) and Beverley Kopecky (Sixth Form Librarian) have all given many years of excellent service to the school and have supported our students brilliantly. We will miss them all and want to take this opportunity to thank them for all they have done for the sixth form throughout their time at the school and wish them all the very best for the future.

We would like to reassure students, parents and carers that our students will continue to receive excellent pastoral care and support via our sixth form tutors, mentors, heads of year and other support staff.

Mentoring

In Year 13, our students are allocated a mentor, rather than a form tutor. Year 12 students should by now have met their mentor and, from September, they will meet regularly to support post-18 applications and to discuss student progress and wellbeing. We find this individualised support in Year 13 is most effective in supporting students both with their progress and wellbeing during Year 13 and with their post-18 planning. Mentors will also act as UCAS referees for their mentees, after collating reports from students' subject staff.

Attendance and reporting of absence in September

Year 12 have been exemplary this year in terms of their attendance, despite the disruption they have faced. We would like to see this continue into Year 13, given the importance of the year for our students and their post-18 plans. We expect students to attend all taught lessons and arranged mentor meetings. Where there is a genuine reason for absence, from September, please report this via our main reception telephone number: 01604 679540.

We hope the summer break provides an opportunity for some much-needed rest and relaxation for our students, as well as time for some consolidation of Year 12 studies ahead of beginning our students' final year at school.

With very best wishes for a healthy and peaceful summer.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Claire Green | Director of Sixth Form
Northampton School for Girls

